

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article defining a longitudinal direction, a front portion in the longitudinal direction, a rear portion, and a middle portion arranged between said front and rear portions, the article comprising:
 - an upper, liquid-permeable cover sheet,
 - a lower, liquid-impermeable cover sheet,
 - an absorption body arranged between the cover sheets,
 - a rear barrier formed in the rear portion and attached to the article along the rear edge of the article, and
 - first and second side barriers along respective longitudinal sides, each side barrier in turn comprising at least one longitudinal elastic element, said first and second side barriers, viewed from above, defining a shape which narrows in the direction towards said front portion so that the distance, in the transverse direction of the article, between said elastic elements, is greater in said rear portion than in said front portion,
 - each side barrier is arranged such that each side barrier is secured in contact with said front portion, and each side barrier and the upper cover sheet define a folded structure of substantially Z-shaped cross section with a fold directed towards the inside of said article, wherein

the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier is positioned at or near the fold directed towards the inside of the article,

the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier runs between an attachment point on the front portion of the article and an attachment point on the rear portion of the article and along the entire length of the fold directed towards the inside of the article, and

the first side barrier is secured to the upper cover sheet to form a first line of attachment, and the second side barrier is secured to the upper cover sheet to form a second line of attachment, the first and second lines of attachment extending under the rear barrier, and the first and second side barriers cooperate with the rear barrier to form a pocket, the pocket extending to the rear edge of the article and continuously between and beyond the first and second lines of attachment in the transverse direction of the article.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the elastic element in the first side barrier, viewed from above, is secured to said rear portion outside the first line of attachment, and the elastic element in the second side barrier, viewed from above, is secured to said rear portion outside the second line of attachment.

4. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the rear barrier is intended for taking up bodily excretions in the direction rearwards along said article.

5. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said rear barrier comprises a further elastic element.

6. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 5, wherein said further elastic element, when viewed from above, extends outside the attachment points on the rear portion of the article, and

wherein said further elastic element comprises attachment points which, when viewed from above, extend outside the attachment points of the elastic elements in the side barriers on the rear portion of the article, a barrier being defined along the longitudinal sides and rear side of said article.

7. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said first side barrier comprises a first elastic element and a second elastic element, said second side barrier comprises a third elastic element and a fourth elastic element, said first elastic element extending outside the second elastic element viewed in relation to a longitudinal axis of symmetry through said article, and said third elastic element extending outside the fourth elastic element viewed in relation to said axis of symmetry.

8. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the distance between the elastic elements of the side barriers is at least two times greater at said rear portion than at said front portion.

9. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the distance between the elastic elements of the side barriers is at least three times greater at said rear portion than at said front portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the distance between parts of the elastic elements in the side barriers nearest to the inside of said article is within the range of 1 – 3 cm at said front portion.

11. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the elastic elements run at least partially in contact with said folds in each side barrier.

12. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the said first and second side barriers by themselves constitute a combined side leakage protection and leg elastic for said article.

13. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the said elastic elements consist of elastic threads.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article defining a longitudinal direction, a front portion in the longitudinal direction, a rear portion, and a middle portion arranged between said front and rear portions, the article comprising:

- an upper, liquid-permeable cover sheet,
- a lower, liquid-impermeable cover sheet,
- an absorption body arranged between the cover sheets, and
- first and second side barriers along respective longitudinal sides, each side barrier in turn comprising at least one longitudinal elastic element, said first and second side barriers, viewed from above, defining a shape which narrows in the direction towards said front portion so that the distance, in the transverse direction of the article, between said elastic elements, is greater in said rear portion than in said front portion,

each side barrier is arranged such that each side barrier is secured in contact with said front portion, and each side barrier and the upper cover sheet define a folded structure of substantially Z-shaped cross section with a fold directed towards the inside of said article, wherein

- the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier is positioned at or near the fold directed towards the inside of the article,
- the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier runs between an attachment point on the front portion of the article and an attachment point on the rear portion of the article and along the entire length of the fold directed towards the inside of the article;

the article further comprising a rear barrier formed in said rear portion and attached to the article along the rear edge of the article, which rear barrier is intended for taking up bodily excretions in the direction rearwards along said article, the first side barrier is secured to the upper cover sheet to form a first line of attachment, and the second side barrier is secured to the upper cover sheet to form a second line of attachment, the first and second lines of attachment extending under the rear barrier, and the first and second side barriers cooperate with the rear barrier to form a pocket, the pocket extending to the rear edge of the article and continuously between and beyond the first and second lines of attachment in the transverse direction of the article,

said rear barrier comprises a further elastic element,

said further elastic element, when viewed from above, extends outside the attachment points on the rear portion of the article, and

said further elastic element comprises attachment points which, when viewed from above, extend outside said attachment points of the elastic elements in the side barriers on the rear portion of the article, a barrier being defined along the longitudinal sides and rear side of said article.

16. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the entire pocket is provided beyond the absorption body in the longitudinal direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein the entire pocket is provided beyond the absorption body in the longitudinal direction.

18. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein ~~the cooperation of the first and second side barriers with the rear barrier~~ forms form a side barrier of the pocket in the longitudinal direction of the article, the side barrier of the pocket being disposed beyond the first and second lines of attachment in the transverse direction of the article.

19. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein ~~the cooperation of the first and second side barriers with the rear barrier~~ forms form a side barrier of the pocket in the longitudinal direction of the article, the side barrier of the pocket being disposed beyond the first and second lines of attachment in the transverse direction of the article.

20. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier is positioned at or near the fold along an entire length of the at least one longitudinal elastic element.

21. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 15, wherein the at least one longitudinal elastic element of each side barrier is positioned

at or near the fold along an entire length of the at least one longitudinal elastic element.